

This lark is common in Somalia to the east of Erlanger's sites, but does not extend south beyond 2°N (Ash & Miskell 1983). To the north it extends westwards in southern Ethiopia to at least 39°30'E, and possibly further, so that it may also occur in extreme northeastern Kenya at other sites as far west as Moyale (3.32N, 39.04E). The specimens under discussion should be referable to the race *arorihensis* (Erard 1975), although the possibility that *Mirafra degodiensis* might occur should not be overlooked. This recently described species (Erard *loc. cit.*) is known from the type locality only, but it is interesting to note that this is in an area of southeastern Ethiopia from which there are no records of *M. gilletti*, although they occur in all directions within a short distance.

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- J.E. Miskell, CARE, c/o UNHCR, Box 2925, Mogadishu, Somalia and J.S. Ash, Division of Birds, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560, U.S.A. Received 10 April 1985
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LEUCISTIC SOMALI BIRDS

Following on from Lewis' (1983) observation of a leucistic Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor*, it may be of interest in view of the geographical separation to record a leucistic specimen of *P. b. somaliensis*, and a partly leucistic specimen of the Red Somali Lark *Mirafra africana sharpii*.

On 13 April 1958, a male Red Somali Lark was collected on the Ban Seila at approximately 9°15'N, 43°50'E (the type locality) and was deposited in the British Museum (Natural History). On examination this bird was found to have the following feathers white, in an apparently otherwise normal plumage: left wing - 2nd primary covert,

right wing - 1st - 7th primary coverts, inclusive; 4th primary, white with a buff tinge on the outer web. (All measured ascendantly.)

Also of great interest was the fact that the testes were enlarged and measured 9 x 5 and 8 x 4 mm; other measurements were wing 107 mm, tarsus 32 mm and culmen 15.5 mm. The bird had been calling from the top of a zariba.

The Common Bulbul was noted on 16 December 1958 at Sheikh (9°56'N, 45°12'E) and was one of a pair, the other bird being normal in colouration. They were frequenting a house garden. In this bird the plumage was generally creamy white except for some buff-brown marks on the tail. The normal black/brown of the head was a burnt brown, and the bill and feet were black.

The above are the only records of leucistic specimens obtained during the periods of observation in northwestern Somalia from April 1955 to January 1957, and December 1957 to December 1958, all months inclusive.

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LEWIS, A.D. 1983. A leucistic Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*. *Scopus* 7: 94-95.

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